

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of New Jersey

Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

New Jersey

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 8,590,300 (July 2002 estimate); 8,414,350 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 66.0% white; 13.0% black/African American; 0.1% American Indian/Alaska Native; 5.7% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 1.6% two or more races; 13.3% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: James McGreevey²
- Attorney General: Peter Harvey³
- Secretary of State: Regena Thomas⁴
- U.S. Senate: Jon Corzine (D); Frank Lautenberg (D)⁵
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-13, respectively): Robert Andrews (D); Frank LoBiondo (R); Jim Saxton (R); Christopher Smith (R); Scott Garrett (R); Frank Pallone, Jr. (D); Mike Ferguson (R); Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D); Steven Rothman (D); Donald Payne (D); Rodney Frelinghuysen (R); Rush Holt (D); Robert Menendez (D)⁶
- Capital: Trenton⁷

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁸
Designated in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA is responsible for areas of New York and the following New Jersey counties: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union.
- Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA)⁹
GCADA was created to coordinate statewide services involving alcoholism and drug abuse. The funding for this program comes from the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction fund. The money in this fund is collected from fines levied on convicted drug users and sellers.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in New Jersey:¹⁰
 - FY 2002:
 - \$100,000 to Bernards Township Municipal Alliance, Basking Ridge
 - FY 2001:
 - \$87,880 to Genesis Counseling Center, Collingswood
 - \$100,000 to Gloucester County Drug-Free Communities Coalition, Woodbury
 - \$100,000 to East Orange Prevention Policy Board, East Orange
 - FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 to Sussex County Coalition for Healthy and Safe Families, Newton
 - FY 1999:
 - \$99,980 to the Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Drugs, Paterson

- \$100,000 to National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Westfield
 - \$99,783 to Newark Fighting Back Partnership, Inc., Newark
- FY 1998:
 - \$100,000 to Cape May Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Cape May
 - \$100,000 to the Brick Municipal Alliance Committee, Brick Township
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹¹

Eight sites in New Jersey have been officially recognized as Federal Weed and Seed sites: Atlantic City, Camden, Newark, Orange, Pleasantville, Trenton (2 sites), and Vineland.
- FY 2001/2002 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for New Jersey:¹²
 - Formula Funding: \$61,386,648
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$46,898,148
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$12,420,504
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$1,418,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$649,996
 - Discretionary Funding: \$8,385,516
 - Mental Health - \$3,409,387
 - Substance Prevention - \$857,924
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$4,118,205
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$17,897,887
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$51,874,277
 - Total Funds for New Jersey: \$69,772,164
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to New Jersey: \$13,584,474¹³
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant recipients in New Jersey:¹⁴
 - \$295,773 to Camden Family Division, Camden, for drug court enhancement
 - \$423,795 to Passaic Family Division, Paterson, for drug court implementation
 - \$499,937 to Mercer Family Division, Trenton, for drug court implementation
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to New Jersey:¹⁵
 - FY 1996: \$591,736
 - FY 1997: \$676,077
 - FY 1998: \$1,396,512
 - FY 1999: \$1,386,354
 - FY 2000: \$1,426,453
 - FY 2001: \$1,362,318
 - FY 2002: \$1,378,882
- There were no New Jersey recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.¹⁶
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipients in New Jersey:¹⁷

- \$125,000 to Westmoor Gardens, Englewood
- \$125,000 to Lakewood Plaza II Apartments, Lakewood
- \$125,000 to Edward Muraski Towers, Linden
- \$63,973 to Walnut Manor, Vineland

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported making 1,032 arrests for drug violations in New Jersey.¹⁸

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, New Jersey, 1997-2001

Year	Arrests
1997	902
1998	960
1999	908
2000	1,007
2001	1,032

- During 2001, there were 47,763 adult arrests for drug abuse violations in New Jersey. This is a 4% decrease over the 49,702 adult drug arrests in 2000.¹⁹

Number of Adult Arrests, Select Offenses, New Jersey, 2000-2001

Offense	2000	2001	% Change
Murder	215	236	+10%
Rape	491	485	-1
Robbery	2,896	2,873	-1
Aggravated assault	8,840	8,869	*
Burglary	4,765	4,764	*
Larceny-theft	21,848	22,256	+2
Motor vehicle theft	911	945	+4
Drug abuse violations	49,702	47,763	-4
Driving under the influence	28,865	28,659	-1
Liquor law violations	9,153	8,286	-9

* Less than one-half of one percent

- Nearly 30,000 of the total drug arrests in 2001 (juveniles and adults) involved opium or cocaine and their derivatives.²⁰

Number of Drug Arrests (All Ages), by Drug Type, New Jersey, 1998-2001

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	36,617	31,243	29,696	29,496
Marijuana/hashish	24,802	23,683	24,422	22,449
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	712	894	1,094	1,181
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	1,880	2,202	2,594	2,325
Total drug arrests	64,011	58,022	57,806	55,451

- Of the total arrests for drug violations during 2001, 39,276 were possession/use arrests.²¹

Number of Possession/Use Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 1998-2001

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	23,099	20,462	18,201	17,186
Marijuana/hashish	21,755	20,709	21,233	19,335
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	507	581	804	839
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	1,536	1,770	2,099	1,916
Total possession/use arrests	46,897	43,522	42,337	39,276

- During 2001, there were 16,179 arrests in New Jersey for the sale/manufacture of drugs.²²

Sale/Manufacture Drug Arrests, by Drug Type, New Jersey, 1998-2001

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001
Opium or cocaine and derivatives	13,518	10,781	11,495	12,310
Marijuana/hashish	3,047	2,974	3,189	3,114
Synthetic narcotics (Demerol, methadone)	205	313	290	342
Other dangerous non-narcotic drugs	344	432	495	409
Total sale/manufacture arrests	17,114	14,500	15,469	16,175

Drugs

- Cocaine

Both powder and crack cocaine pose significant drug threats to New Jersey. In the northern areas of the State, powder cocaine sold for \$22,000-\$34,000 per kilogram, \$750-\$1,200 per ounce, and \$25-\$85 per gram in the second quarter of FY 2002. In southern New Jersey, powder cocaine sold for \$25,000-\$34,000 per kilogram, \$500-\$1,200 per ounce, and \$30-\$100 per gram. Crack cocaine sold for \$750-\$2,250 per ounce in northern New Jersey and \$600-\$2,000 per ounce in southern New Jersey. A rock of crack cocaine sold for \$5-\$20 throughout the State.²³

- Heroin

Heroin from all major source areas is available in New Jersey. However, South American heroin is the type most readily available. In the first half of FY 2002, the average purity of the heroin found in the Newark area was 78.6%. Heroin prices are significantly higher in southern New Jersey than northern areas of the State. For example, heroin sold for \$125,000-\$250,000 per kilogram, \$4,500-\$9,000 per ounce, and \$80-\$300 per gram in southern New Jersey. In northern New Jersey, heroin sold for \$60,000-\$120,000 per kilogram, \$1,600-\$4,200 per ounce, and \$60-\$150 per gram.²⁴

- Marijuana

Marijuana is the most commonly abused and widely available illicit drug in New Jersey. Prices for domestic marijuana throughout the State ranged from \$600 to \$3,000 per pound, \$100 to \$650 per ounce, and \$5 to \$10 per gram in the second quarter of FY 2002.²⁵

- **Methamphetamine**
The distribution and abuse of methamphetamine pose a lower threat to New Jersey than other illicit drugs.²⁶
- **Club Drugs**
The use of club drugs remains popular in nightclubs throughout New Jersey and particularly in the casino areas of Atlantic City.²⁷ Wholesale quantities of MDMA (500 MDMA tablets or more) usually sell for \$3-\$5 per tablet. Retail quantities of MDMA sell for \$20-\$30 per tablet. The availability and abuse of GHB are increasing in New Jersey. Ketamine usually sells for \$20 per bag in the State.²⁸
- **Other Drugs**
The stimulant khat is readily available in New Jersey and use seems to be limited to immigrant communities from Arabian, East African, and Middle Eastern countries. Diverted pharmaceuticals are increasingly being distributed and abused in New Jersey.²⁹
- According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 44% of New Jersey citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.³⁰

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, New Jersey, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	9.40%	17.92%	4.00%	6.13%
Past month use of marijuana	6.81	14.88	2.86	4.63
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	4.50	5.50	1.83	2.50
Past year cocaine use	1.27	4.71	1.01	1.47
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	36.16	28.19	47.17	43.93

- According to 2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1% of New Jersey citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.³¹

Percent of Citizens Reporting Dependence, New Jersey, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.06%	3.71%	0.59%	1.09%
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.22	5.81	0.89	1.78
Alcohol dependence	1.10	3.01	2.06	2.08
Alcohol dependence or abuse	4.65	10.11	4.11	4.86
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	6.52	12.96	4.47	5.65

Juveniles

- During 2001, there were 7,688 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in New Jersey. This is a 5% decrease over the 8,104 juvenile drug arrests in 2000.³²

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Select Offenses, New Jersey, 2000-2001

Offense	2000	2001	% Change
Murder	18	25	+39
Rape	83	104	+25
Robbery	1,203	1,176	-2
Aggravated assault	1,963	2,051	+4
Burglary	1,952	1,922	-2
Larceny-theft	8,782	7,478	-15
Motor vehicle theft	521	486	-7
Drug abuse violations	8,104	7,688	-5
Driving under the influence	403	345	-14
Liquor law violations	3,149	3,229	+3

- Approximately 41% of New Jersey high school students surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana at least once during their lives.³³

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, New Jersey, 2001

Drug Type	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	37.2%	44.9%	41.1%
Current marijuana use	4.8	13.6	9.2
Lifetime cocaine use	6.0	11.0	8.5
Current cocaine use	1.6	6.9	4.2
Lifetime inhalant use	10.4	15.0	12.7
Current inhalant use	3.3	6.8	5.1
Lifetime heroin use	2.1	5.5	3.8
Lifetime methamphetamine use	5.8	9.6	7.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.2	7.3	4.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.8	5.6	3.2
Tried marijuana before age 13	21.7	28.0	24.9

- Results of a 2001 survey of New Jersey public and private school 7th and 8th graders indicate that 9.7% of the 8th graders used marijuana in their lifetimes.³⁴

Percent of 7th and 8th Graders Reporting Lifetime Drug Use, New Jersey, 1999-2001

Drug Type	<u>1999 Survey</u>		<u>2001 Survey</u>	
	7th	8th	7th	8th
Marijuana	7.6%	16.3%	3.3%	9.7%
Inhalants	8.4	7.6	8.8	9.4
Hallucinogens	1.3	2.8	0.4	1.1
Club drugs	not collected	not collected	1.5	3.3
Cocaine	1.5	2.5	0.8	1.7
Heroin	0.5	1.4	0.4	1.1
Other illicit drug	7.6	9.9	1.8	4.4
Any illicit drug	18.0	23.5	12.4	19.0

- Approximately 4.7% of the 8th graders surveyed in 2001 reported using marijuana within the past 30 days.³⁵

Percent of 7th and 8th Graders Reporting Past 30 Day Drug Use, New Jersey, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999 Survey		2001 Survey	
	7th	8th	7th	8th
Marijuana	3.6%	9.9%	1.3%	4.7%
Inhalants	3.6	3.2	3.0	2.7
Hallucinogens	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.6
Club drugs	not collected	not collected	0.7	1.2
Cocaine	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.5
Heroin	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.3
Other illicit drug	3.1	5.7	0.5	1.7
Any illicit drug	8.7	14.5	4.7	8.0

Enforcement

- Northern New Jersey Heroin Trafficking Task Force³⁶
This HIDTA initiative combines local, state, and Federal law enforcement personnel in an effort to dismantle core and secondary trafficking organizations in Essex, Hudson, Union, Bergen, and Passaic Counties.
- In 2001, there were 50,105 full-time law enforcement employees in New Jersey (38,113 officers and 11,992 civilians).³⁷

Trafficking and Seizures

- New Jersey, especially areas such as Newark and Camden, serves as a transportation hub and distribution center for illicit drugs.³⁸
- Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, there has been an increase in the availability of heroin in New Jersey. This is primarily attributed to the increased law enforcement presence in New York. Narcotics officers report that large amounts of narcotics are being rerouted to New Jersey before distribution in New York.³⁹
- Large shipments of marijuana originating in Canada are smuggled into New Jersey.⁴⁰
- Most of the cocaine found in New Jersey is shipped directly into the State from Colombia.⁴¹
- During the second quarter of 2002, U.S. Customs Service (USCS) inspectors confiscated nearly 17 kilograms of heroin in 13 seizures at Newark International Airport.⁴²
- During 2001, Federal agencies seized more than 2,000 kilograms of marijuana in New Jersey.⁴³

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, New Jersey, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	1,291.4
Heroin	168.8
Methamphetamine	0.2
Marijuana	2,196.8

- In 2001, there were 1,013 marijuana plants eradicated in New Jersey under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.⁴⁴

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, New Jersey, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
61	831	10	182	1,013

- From 1996 to 2001, three methamphetamine labs were seized in New Jersey. One lab was seized in 1996, one was seized in 1997, and two were seized in 1999.⁴⁵
- From October 1999 to March 2000, the USCS seized over 4 million doses of MDMA in New Jersey. Law enforcement officials in New Jersey report that MDMA seizures in 2000 totaled 135.9 kilograms. This surpassed MDMA seizures in 1999 by 26%.⁴⁶
- Newark International Airport is the second largest port of entry for khat in the United States (after John F. Kennedy Airport in New York). The USCS seized almost five tons of khat at Newark International Airport from October 1999 to June 2000.⁴⁷

Courts

- Drug Courts⁴⁸
As of January 2003, there were 20 drug courts in existence or being planned in New Jersey. Ten drug courts have been in existence for more than two years, 4 were recently implemented, and 6 were being planned.
- During FY 2001, approximately 34% (34.4%) of the Federally-sentenced defendants in New Jersey had committed drug offenses. Ninety (31.5%) of the drug offenses involved heroin.⁴⁹

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, New Jersey, FY 2001

Drug Type Involved	Offenses	% of Total
Heroin	90	31.5%
Powder cocaine	89	31.1
Crack cocaine	40	14.0
Marijuana	24	8.4
Methamphetamine	15	5.2
Other	28	9.8

Corrections

- On January 1, 2001, there were 28,622 offenders in New Jersey correctional institutions. Approximately 34% of the inmates committed drug offenses.⁵⁰

Number of Offenders in Correctional Institutions, New Jersey, January 1, 2001

Base Offense	# of Offenders	% of Total
Violent	11,513	40%
Property	3,752	13
Miscellaneous	1,311	5
Weapons	879	3
Drugs	9,683	34
Not coded	1,484	5
Total offenders	28,622	100

- Virtually all of the drug offenses resulting in incarceration were for sale and distribution, not possession.⁵¹
- At the end of 2001 (December 31), there were 132,846 adults on probation and 11,931 adults on parole in New Jersey.⁵²

Consequences of Use

- During 2001, there were 304 drug abuse deaths in the Newark metropolitan area, which includes Essex, Morris, and Union Counties. Heroin/morphine was mentioned in 177 of the drug abuse deaths.⁵³

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Newark Metro. Area, 1998-2001

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	65	97	98	109
Cocaine	122	130	137	148
Heroin/morphine	107	128	179	177
Marijuana	21	21	14	38
Amphetamine	1	1	--	--
Methamphetamine	--	1	1	--
Club drugs	--	1	1	2
Hallucinogens	--	--	1	--
Inhalants	--	--	1	--
Narcotic analgesics	54	44	75	190
Other analgesics	22	15	13	24
Benzodiazepines	31	49	35	33
Antidepressants	34	25	48	29
All other substances	15	24	23	45
Total drug deaths	202	225	250	304
Total drug mentions	472	536	626	795

- In 2000, there were 655 fatal crashes with 723 fatalities in New Jersey. Twenty-one of the deceased drivers, 3 deceased passengers, 6 deceased pedestrians, and 1 deceased pedalcyclist tested positive for drugs.⁵⁴

Treatment

- In 2001, there were 53,742 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in New Jersey.⁵⁵ There were 52,810 treatment admissions in 2000.⁵⁶ During 1999, there were 53,772 admissions to treatment.⁵⁷

Number of Admissions to Treatment, New Jersey, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999		2000		2001	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	10,505	19.5%	9,475	17.9%	8,730	16.2%
Alc. w/ second. drug	6,991	13.0	6,369	12.1	6,153	11.4
Cocaine – smoked	4,289	8.0	3,879	7.3	3,561	6.6
Cocaine – other route	2,072	3.9	1,881	3.6	1,810	3.4
Marijuana	5,373	10.0	5,632	10.7	5,588	10.4
Heroin	23,011	42.8	24,254	45.9	26,337	49.0
Other opiates	562	1.0	590	1.1	827	1.5
PCP	71	0.1	105	0.2	119	0.2
Hallucinogens	70	0.1	68	0.1	58	0.1
Amphetamines	100	0.2	116	0.2	125	0.2
Other stimulants	18	0.0	20	0.0	13	0.0
Tranquilizers	207	0.4	218	0.4	202	0.4
Sedatives	85	0.2	87	0.2	62	0.1
Inhalants	4	0.0	5	0.0	15	0.0
Other/none specified	414	0.8	111	0.2	142	0.3
Total	53,772	100.0	52,810	100.0	53,742	100.0

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² New Jersey Governor Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/>

³ New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/>

⁴ New Jersey Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/state/>

⁵ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>

⁶ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>

⁷ New Jersey Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/>

⁸ Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_ny-nj.html

⁹ Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Web site: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/gcada/>

¹⁰ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, New Jersey section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/nj.html>

¹¹ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, New Jersey section: http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/new_jersey.html

¹² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>

¹³ Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/FY2002BYRNE.htm>

¹⁴ Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>

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- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ National Drug Intelligence Center, *New Jersey Drug Threat Assessment Update*, August 2002:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/1703/1703p.pdf>
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- ³⁰ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Volume II. Supplementary Technical Appendices*, October 2002: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2kState/PDF/Vol2/OOSAERptVol2_W.pdf
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² New Jersey State Police, *2001 Uniform Crime Report*: <http://www.njsp.org/info/ucr2001/index.html>
- ³³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2001*, June 2002:
<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/YRBSS/index.asp>
- ³⁴ New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, *2001 New Jersey Middle School Substance Use Survey Report*, September 2002: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/as/2001middleschsurvey.pdf>
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This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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